

## CLAIMS

1. A client for receiving multiple description media streams, said client comprising:
  - a multiple description receiving portion, said multiple description receiving portion adapted to receive a plurality of multiple description bitstreams;
  - memory coupled to said multiple description receiving portion, said memory adapted to store said plurality of multiple description bitstreams in respective portions thereof;
  - a synchronization module coupled to said memory, said synchronization module adapted to blend said plurality of multiple description bitstreams;
  - a decoder coupled to said synchronization module, said decoder for decoding said plurality of multiple description bitstreams;
  - a source control module coupled to said synchronization module, said source control module for determining appropriate operation characteristics of said client; and
  - a user interface device coupled to said decoder, said user interface device adapted to present media previously encoded into said plurality of multiple description bitstreams to a user.
2. The client for receiving multiple description media streams of Claim 1 wherein said client is a mobile client.
3. The client for receiving multiple description media streams of Claim 2 wherein said source control module further comprises:
  - a channel quality monitor, said channel quality monitor for monitoring characteristics of channels on which said plurality of multiple description bitstreams are received, and
  - a power strength monitor, said power strength monitor for monitoring power characteristics of said mobile client.
4. The client for receiving multiple description media streams of Claim 1 wherein said decoder is adapted to perform decoding operations compatible with standards selected from the group comprising: MPEG-4 Version 2 (with NEWPRED) and H.263 Version 2 (with RPS).
5. The client for receiving multiple description media streams of

6. The client for receiving multiple description media streams of Claim 1 wherein said user interface device is comprised of a audio output device.

transmission means coupled to said synchronization module, said transmission means for transmitting information related to said operation characteristics of said client to components of a network to which said client is adapted to be communicatively coupled.

- a) receiving a first multiple description bitstream at said client;
- b) receiving a second multiple description bitstream at said client;
- c) storing said first multiple description bitstream and said second multiple description bitstream at said client;

e) determining appropriate operation characteristics of said client;  
and

9. The method for receiving multiple description media streams at a client as recited in Claim 8 wherein said step a) comprises receiving said first multiple description bitstream at a mobile client.

11. The method for receiving multiple description media streams at a client as recited in Claim 8 wherein said step d) comprises decoding said

first multiple description bitstream and said second multiple description bitstream in a manner compatible with standards selected from the group comprising: MPEG-4 Version 2 (with NEWPRED) and H.263 Version 2 (with RPS).

12. The method for receiving multiple description media streams at a client as recited in Claim 9 wherein said step e) comprises determining said appropriate operation characteristics of said mobile client by monitoring characteristics of channels on which said first multiple description bitstream and said second multiple description bitstream are received,

13. The method for receiving multiple description media streams at a client as recited in Claim 9 wherein said step e) comprises determining said appropriate operation characteristics of said mobile client by monitoring power characteristics of said mobile client.

14. The method for receiving multiple description media streams at a client as recited in Claim 8 further comprising the step of:

adjusting said operation characteristics of said client to achieve appropriate operating characteristics.

15. The method for receiving multiple description media streams at a client as recited in Claim 8 wherein said step f) comprises presenting said media previously encoded into said first multiple description bitstream and said second multiple description bitstream to said user using a display device.

16. The method for receiving multiple description media streams at a client as recited in Claim 8 wherein said step f) comprises presenting said media previously encoded into said first multiple description bitstream and said second multiple description bitstream to said user using an audio output device.

17. The method for receiving multiple description media streams at a client as recited in Claim 8 further comprising the step of:

transmitting information related to said appropriate operation characteristics from said client to components of a network to which said client is adapted to be communicatively coupled.

18. A client for receiving multiple description media streams, said client comprising:

a multiple description receiving portion, said multiple description receiving portion adapted to receive a plurality of multiple description bitstreams;

memory coupled to said multiple description receiving portion, said memory adapted to store said plurality of multiple description bitstreams in respective portions thereof;

monitoring means for determining the appropriate operation characteristics of said client;

a decoder coupled to said monitoring means, said decoder for decoding said plurality of multiple description bitstreams;

a user interface device coupled to said decoder, said user interface device adapted to present media previously encoded into said plurality of multiple description bitstreams to a user.

19. The client for receiving multiple description media streams of Claim 18 wherein said client is a mobile client.

20. The client for receiving multiple description media streams of Claim 19 wherein said monitoring means further comprises:

a channel quality monitor, said channel quality monitor for monitoring characteristics of channels on which said plurality of multiple description bitstreams are received, and

a power strength monitor, said power strength monitor for monitoring power characteristics of said mobile client.

21. The client for receiving multiple description media streams of Claim 18 wherein said decoder is adapted to perform decoding operations compatible with standards selected from the group comprising: MPEG-4 Version 2 (with NEWPRED) and H.263 Version 2 (with RPS).

22. The client for receiving multiple description media streams of Claim 18 wherein said user interface device is comprised of a display device.

23. The client for receiving multiple description media streams of Claim 18 wherein said user interface device is comprised of a audio output

device.

24. The client for receiving multiple description media streams of Claim 18 further comprising:

transmission means coupled to said synchronization module, said transmission means for transmitting information related to said operation characteristics of said client to components of a network to which said client is adapted to be communicatively coupled.